

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4869

1. Name

Historic 704 - 724 South Port Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 704 - 724 South Port Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of seven two-story, two-bay wide houses late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in the late 1880s on land leased for development by the Canton Company. All of the houses have been covered with formstone and only two cornices remain intact. All other original detail have been obscured by the formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, 12'6" wide and occupy lots 71' deep. Each house is two rooms deep with a one-story backbuilding. The houses were probably constructed in running bond and were originally painted, but all are now covered with formstone. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs were capped by a wooden cornice (only two of which survive) consisting of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, that were originally connected to a lower molding strip, and ended with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with two rows of simple, jig-sawn holes.

The tall, narrow window and door openings probably have segmentally arched brick lintels and brick sills but all of the original door and window openings have been completely obscured by the formstone coverings and all windows are filled with replacement 1/1 sash. On several of the houses the original first floor window has been replaced by the more fashionable wider plate glass window with stained glass transom popular in the early 20th century. No original doors survive and the row shows a mix of replacement door styles, all surmounted by a single-light transom. The houses sit on medium-height basements, lit by a single-light sash. The entrances are reached by three or four brick or concrete steps. An arched sallyport running back between each pair of houses provides service access to the rear yards on lots that are back-to-back with those on the east side of Montford Ave.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1888

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of late-Italianate-style houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. It also shows the solidity of the working class neighborhood of homeowners in the Canton area who "updated" their houses in the 1950s and 1960s by putting up formstone. In some cases, such as here, homeowners removed the old wooden cornices and covered the entire façade with formstone so as to make the houses entirely maintenance free.

The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

The land on which these houses were built originally belonged to the Canton Company as part of their development of one of the country's first industrial parks. In the 1880s the Company began leasing parcels to various builders who constructed modestly-scaled and priced housing for the mainly German immigrant families who were settling near the rapidly growing industries of Canton. Most of the houses sold to mainly German-American semi-skilled tradesmen and laborers employed in nearby factories, who received mortgages from a variety of local building and loans, many of them sponsored by the German community.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:

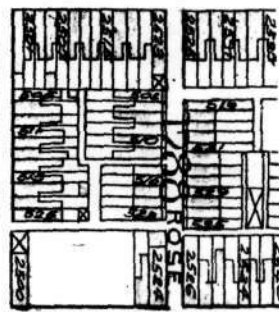
DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

BALTO (MD)

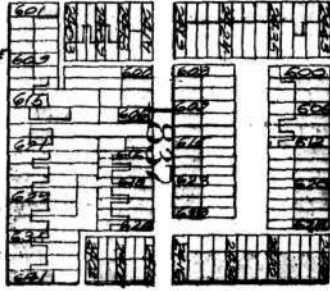


SAVE

MONTFORD

45 MILTON

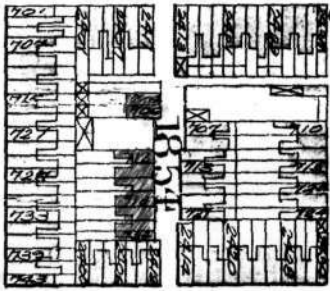
CANTON



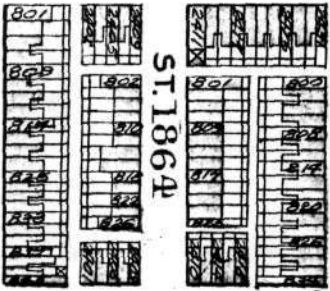
ALICEANNA

ST.

FOSTER



FAIT



51.1864

HUDSON

1865

1876

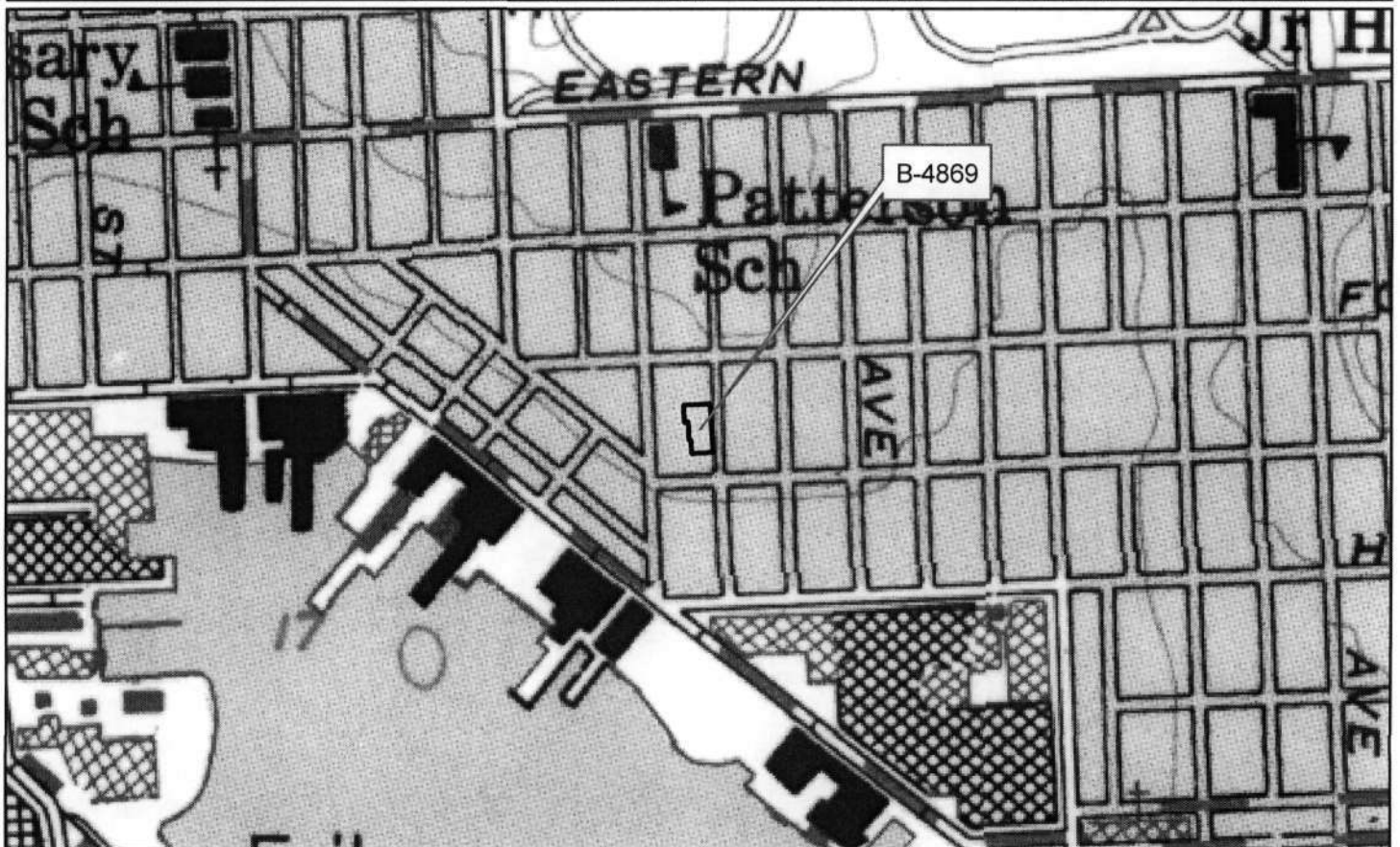
AMERICAN CAN CO. BRANCH
TIN CAN MFG.

771W MVB
CANTON BOX CO

NUMBER

PIER

B-4869
704-724 S. Port Street
Block 1854 Lots 078-087
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





704-724 S. Phl

HC-1

B. 4869

704-724 S. Port St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belgrave

10/97

1/2



718

718 S. Pat

HC-1

B-4469

718 S. Port St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belfiore

11/97

2/2